

To: Cheatham, Reggie[cheatham.reggie@epa.gov]
Cc: Edlund, Carl[Edlund.Carl@epa.gov]; Hestmark, Martin[Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]
From: Manzanilla, Enrique
Sent: Fri 8/21/2015 2:06:19 PM
Subject: Fwd: Gold King Mine spill response
[ATT00001.htm](#)

I sent this email last night to the Navajo nation president's chief of staff.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Manzanilla, Enrique" <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>
Date: August 20, 2015 at 11:08:46 PM PDT
To: Robert Joe <rjoe@navajo-nsn.gov>
Cc: "Blumenfeld, Jared" <BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV>, "Duncan, Will" <Duncan.Will@epa.gov>, "Moxley, Bret" <Moxley.Bret@epa.gov>, "Tenley, Clancy" <Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Gold King Mine spill response

Good Evening Robert:

Thank you again for our discussion earlier this evening. As Jared conveyed to you, we must continue to work collaboratively with regard to this response. We have a long-standing, multi-faceted relationship with the Navajo Nation and there will be challenges ahead of us which will require a strong relationship and partnership grounded in respect and good faith. Per your request, below are the main points we covered during our call.

As agreed, Will Duncan will replace Clancy Tenley and report tomorrow afternoon to your office in Window Rock. Currently, Will is the manager of our team working with the Navajo Nation on the assessment and clean-up of abandoned uranium mines. He has a long history of working with the Navajo Nation in this area and he was previously an On-Scene Coordinator in our Emergency Response Section. His mobile number is 415 309 2655.

As Jared described on the call, our evaluation of the sediment data at the sampling stations in the Navajo Nation indicates results below risk screening levels. I have asked my staff to share that analysis with NNEPA as soon as possible. You indicated restrictions on irrigation may be lifted soon but not for livestock.

We are continuing deliveries of Hay, and Bret Moxley, the EPA Incident Commander in Farmington, has been in contact today with your Incident Commander, Rose Whitehair, in this regard.

With regard to irrigation flushing, tonight Bret provided to Rose the guidance attached below which was utilized by the State of New Mexico for their irrigation ditch operations. EPA is committed to providing technical assistance in this regard. Please provide Bret a Navajo Nation point of contact at your earliest convenience.

As we discussed, today we suspended field operations in the Navajo Nation because of security concerns for our field personnel. We have not de-mobilized our field operation. However, in order to re-activate our field operations for the remainder of this response, we requested your office's cooperation and assistance in ensuring the safety and security of our field operations personnel. In addition, we requested the participation of Navajo Nation department personnel in all aspects of our field operations. To address these issues, I have asked Will and Bret to work with your office to establish a joint Navajo Nation/U.S. EPA operating protocol for field operations as soon as possible.

You indicated that Navajo Nation authorities are conducting an investigation of the contamination issue associated with the water tank in the Shiprock area. We are willing to work closely with those authorities. We will also need to work to begin demobilizing the EPA provided tanks. You requested we explore how we can support BIA's water tank deployment efforts.

I hope this accurately conveys the main points of our discussion. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns moving forward.

Sincerely,

Enrique Manzanilla

Director, Superfund Division

U.S. EPA Region IX

415 601 2670 mobile

To: Rose Whitehair

Cc: Manzanilla, Enrique; Ruhl, Christopher; Calanog, Steve; Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura

Subject: Irrigation Ditch Recharge Guidance

Ms. Whitehair:

I am sending you this guidance as the Navajo Nation Incident Commander for the Gold King Mine response, and at the direction of EPA Area Command in Durango, based on their understanding of an agreement between the EPA Administrator and President Begaye. This guidance follows the approach taken in New Mexico.

Please call me if I can help answer questions that arise as the Navajo Nation evaluates the use of the San Juan River for irrigation.

Sincerely,

Bret Moxley

Incident Commander for EPA Region 9, Gold King Mine Response.